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## **City, school division collaborate to include a fifth school in the “Building the Future” construction initiative**

**NORFOLK,VA** – City and school division leaders have agreed to ask the City Council [on Tuesday, July 21](#), to revise Norfolk’s comprehensive agreement with S.B. Ballard Co. for construction of new schools. The proposed revisions will significantly improve the agreement by adding a finalized schedule and funding for a long-discussed replacement of Camp Allen Elementary School. The revised agreement also will give the school division authority over the money that was budgeted for ordering furniture, equipment and technology for the new schools.

The original, \$101 million agreement, which was approved by the City Council in November 2014 and includes construction for four schools, did not list Camp Allen. That was because the process for the federal review, approval and U.S. Department of Defense dollars that will pay 80 percent of the nearly \$28.7 million construction cost was still being clarified. Camp Allen is located on Naval Station Norfolk, and is part of a federal initiative to upgrade schools on military bases and serving military dependents. If the City Council approves, Camp Allen will be added to the project. Construction on the replacement school will begin in July 2016, and the first phase of the facility will open for students in January 2018.

If approved by the City Council, the city’s investment in the five-school project, including construction and furniture, equipment and technology, will be \$133.1 million. The Comprehensive Agreement with S.B. Ballard will be amended to \$121 million for construction; the school division will receive \$7.1 million for the purchase and installation of furniture, equipment and technology.

## **City, school division collaborate to include a fifth school in the “Building the Future” construction initiative**

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“I am proud of my team and the partnership with Norfolk Public Schools,” said Marcus Jones, Norfolk City Manager. “A lot of work went into revising the Comprehensive Agreement and incorporating Camp Allen into the current construction schedule and we look forward to continuing the momentum on this unprecedented project for our children.”

Construction is underway for a replacement Richard H. Bowling Jr. Elementary School in the Broad Creek area of the city, as well as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) school serving students in kindergarten through grade 8 in the Campostella community. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2016 on replacement elementary schools for Larchmont and Ocean View.

“We are very pleased that the schedule and budget for the replacement Camp Allen Elementary School are finalized,” said Michael Thornton, acting superintendent for Norfolk Public Schools. “This collaborative project is another step forward in providing 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments for our students.”

For more information regarding the Building the Future school construction initiative, visit [www.norfolk.gov/newschools](http://www.norfolk.gov/newschools).

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